



Park Board Update: April 4, 2016

Miracle League opens tonight!

The spring season of Miracle League ball opens tonight at the Betty and Bobby Allison Miracle League Ball Field, at Dan Kinney Park.

The Miracle League serves children and adults with disabilities. We use a “buddy” system, pairing each player with a volunteer buddy who may assist in hitting, running, catching — or just cheering on! Miracle league games are played on a custom-designed barrier-free field, where players of all ages and abilities can hit, run, catch and play ball. The field is specially equipped with a cushioned synthetic surface that allows players utilizing wheelchairs and walkers to move without fear of injury.

The Miracle League is made possible through numerous community donations, including the Rotary Club of Springfield North, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and Bobby Allison.

The seven-week spring league already includes 160 players from all over the region. Some drive more than two hours to participate. Youth games take place Mondays, 6 and 7 p.m. Adult games are Thursdays, same time. Admission is free, so stop by and cheer for the Miracle League! Guaranteed, the most fun you’ll have all week!

Springfield Lasers home schedule announced

The Mylan World Team Tennis League has announced the 2016 season schedule, including the Springfield Lasers home season. Home matches take place at Cooper Tennis Complex’s Mediacom Tennis Stadium at 7 p.m. on:

- Sunday, July 31
- Saturday, Aug. 6
- Wednesday, Aug. 10
- Thursday, Aug. 11 with John Isner
- Friday, Aug. 12
- Saturday, Aug. 13

Tickets start at \$10 and are available at 417-837-5800 or springfieldlasers.com.

Give Ozarks campaign

The Park Board is participating in the CFO’s Give Ozarks campaign Tuesday, May 3, raising money and building awareness for the Park Board Scholarship Fund and the Miracle League Ball program. Ozark Greenways is also raising funds. Give Ozarks is a one-day online fundraising event, where area nonprofits compete for matching funds and prizes. In 2015, total fundraising topped \$1 million. Please watch social media on May 3 and take part in Give Ozarks day!

Did you know?

The Missouri State High School Athletics Association (MSHSAA) recently announced the state football championships will be held in Springfield this November, with state basketball championships coming to town in the 2017-18 school year. Did you know that Springfield also hosts MSHSAA's state softball, golf and tennis championships? These are among more than 50 sports tournaments hosted by the Park Board every year, generating \$13-15 million for the local economy.

Upcoming events

April 22-23	Camp Ritter Family/Group Camping Weekend at Ritter Springs Park
April 30	Master Gardener and Plant Society Sale, at Springfield Botanical Gardens
May 3	Give Ozarks!
May 6	National Public Gardens Day- Dr. Bill Roston Butterfly House opens for the season at Springfield Botanical Gardens
May 7-8	ArtsFest on Historic Walnut Street
May 16-20	Ozarks Greenways Bike to Work Week
May 20	SPARC Summer Day Camp opens, continues weekday through Aug. 12
May 28	Outdoor pools open for the season
June 4	National Trails Day and Ozarks Greenways 25 th Anniversary
June 4	Dirt Day at Lafayette Park
June 4	35 th Annual Kids Fishing Day at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park
June 18	Bark in the Park at Springfield Botanical Gardens
June 21	Go Skateboard Day at Springfield Skate Park
June 21	Summer Snowfest at Jordan Valley Park
July 31-Aug. 13	Springfield Lasers home season